

desired low mercaptan level petroleum distillates..

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2. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alcoholic alkaline solution used is selected from methanolic and ethanolic solution of sodium hydroxide.

5. (Twice Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the halogenated metal phthalocyanine used is prepared by treating the metal phthalocyanine with a halogenating agent selected from the group comprising chlorine, bromine, iodine, thionyl chloride, sulphuryl chloride, phosphorus pentachloride, phosphorus oxychloride, phosphorus pentabromide and phosphorus trichloride.

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6. (Twice Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the petroleum distillate used is selected from diesel, kerosene and FCC gasoline.

7. (Twice Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temperature is about in the range of 20°C to 50°C.

8. (Twice Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pressure is about in the range of 5kg/cm² - 8kg/cm².

9. (Twice Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid hourly space velocity (LHSV) is about in the range of 1hr⁻¹ to 6hr⁻¹.

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13. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the halogenated metal phthalocyanine used is prepared by treating the metal phthalocyanine with a halogenating

agent selected from the group comprising chlorine, bromine, iodine, thionyl chloride, sulphuryl chloride, phosphorus pentachloride, phosphorus oxychloride, phosphorus pentabromide and phosphorus trichloride.

14. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the halogenated metal phthalocyanine used is prepared by treating the metal phthalocyanine with a halogenating agent selected from the group comprising chlorine, bromine, thionyl chloride, sulphuryl chloride, phosphorus pentachloride, phosphorus oxychloride, phosphorus pentabromide and phosphorus trichloride.

BS 15. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the halogenated metal phthalocyanine used is prepared by treating the metal phthalocyanine with a halogenating agent selected from the group comprising chlorine, bromine, iodine, thionyl chloride, sulphuryl chloride, phosphorus pentachloride, phosphorus oxychloride, phosphorus pentabromide and phosphorus trichloride.

16. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the petroleum distillate used is selected from diesel, kerosene and FCC gasoline.

17. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the petroleum distillate used is diesel.

18. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the petroleum distillate used is FCC gasoline.

19. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the petroleum distillate used is selected from diesel, kerosene and FCC gasoline.

B5 20. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the petroleum distillate used is selected from diesel, kerosene and FCC gasoline.

Add new Claim 21 as follows:

Be -- 21. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein said injected alkali solution comprises sodium hydroxide.

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are present in this application, wherein Claim 21 is new.

The amendments in the specification attend to the objections. A Declaration is attached in support of the amendment of page 5.

In view of the amendment of Claims 17 and 18, there is no duplication of Claim 16, and the double patenting rejection is overcome.

Rejection of claims under 35 U.C.S. 112

All expressions regarded as indefinite by the Examiner have been amended. No new matter was added. In view of the minor nature of the corrections, detailed comments appear to be unnecessary. It is pointed out that additional corrections were made in Claim 1 of a